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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,142	09/16/2003	Takuya Natsume	4041J-000772	2160
27572	7590	01/11/2006		
HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			EXAMINER CIRIC, LJILJANA V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary


Application No.

10/663,142

Applicant(s)

NATSUME ET AL.

Examiner

Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric 

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,7,9 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09162003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the first species or the embodiment of Figures 1 through 4, readable on claims 1 through 5, 8, and 11, in the reply filed on October 18, 2005 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 6, 7, 9, and 10 are hereby withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected second species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on October 17, 2005.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

4. The drawings were received on September 16, 2003. These drawings are hereby approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1 through 5, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to each of independent claims 1 and 11 as written, it is not clear whether the limitation "a door-housing portion" is intended to be readable on a distinct door housing per se or broadly on a portion of the case which houses the blow mode changing door. Absent further clarification, the examiner is broadly interpreting this limitation as being readable on a portion of the air conditioning housing or casing which houses the blow mode-changing door.

There is insufficient antecedent basis in the claims for the recitation of the limitation “said sealing ribs” [claim 2, lines 5-6]. Note that there would be sufficient antecedent basis for reciting “said sealing rib” but it is not clear whether it was applicant’s intention to claim one or more sealing ribs because of the discrepancy within the claim.

With regard to claim 8 as written, it is not clear whether the air conditioning case recited in line 3 of the claim is intended to refer back to the air conditioning case previously recited in line 2 of claim 1 from which claim 8 depends or whether it is the applicant’s intention to claim two separate cases, thus rendering indefinite the metes and bounds of protection sought by the claims.

With regard to claim 11 as written, it is not clear relative to which cylindrical or circular element the expanded portion expands “radially outward” as recited in line 20 of the claim, since no cylindrical or circular element is recited as part of the claim, thereby rendering indefinite the metes and bounds of protection sought by the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. As best can be understood in view of the indefiniteness of the claims, claims 1, 2, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toyoshima et al. (‘592).

Toyoshima et al. (‘592), especially Figure 17, discloses a vehicular air conditioning system essentially as claimed, including, for example: a first air inlet 5 and a second air inlet 4; a foot opening 28 or 29; a face opening 24; a butterfly door 12 readable on the blow mode-changing door; and seal surfaces 2a and 2b being readable on the sealing rib/ribs as recited in claim 2 of the instant application. That

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portion of air conditioning case 2 which houses the mode-changing butterfly door 12 is readable on the door-housing portion as recited in each of base claims 1 and 11 of the instant application.

The reference thus reads on the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 3 through 5 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. The additional prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric whose telephone number is 571-272-4909. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Mancene, can be reached at 571-272-4930.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ljiljana (Lil) V. Ciric
Primary Examiner
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